

In response, Applicant has enclosed herewith a revised Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 establishing the requested nexus between the photos in the affidavit and the drawings in the application. In view of this declaration, Applicant submits that the asserted references no longer constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and, therefore, the pending rejections should be removed.

Applicant notes that the asserted interpretation of the Iwasaki reference is based on a relatively ambiguous Abstract and that the entire reference has not been relied upon or translated. In view of this partial interpretation, Applicant reserves the right to study the reference in its entirety and ascertain the true meaning of this reference and, should the facts warrant, distinguish the presently-claimed invention from this reference.

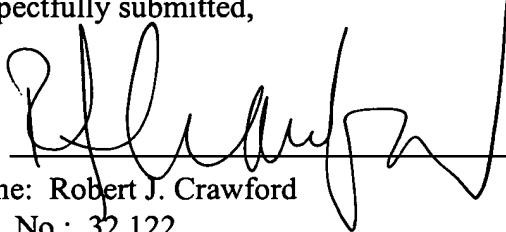
Applicant appreciates the Examiner's attention to this matter and a favorable response is requested.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that each of the claims is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, along with a favorable response, are earnestly requested.

Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 651/686-6633.

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Respectfully submitted,

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